

**News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth
For Immediate Release
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**HERSETH PRAISES FOREST SERVICE PLAN TO MAKE FIREWOOD
AVAILABLE FOR HOME HEATING**

**With Skyrocketing Heating Bills, Plan Makes Sense for
South Dakota Families and for Forest Health**

January 18, 2006, Washington, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Stephanie
Herseth today praised the decision by the U.S. Forest Service to open new
free use areas in the Black Hills National Forest to individuals and families,
who will use the firewood to heat their homes. Herseth supports the plan as
a common sense solution to help families facing record energy costs, and
at the same time remove excess fuel from the forest. In her role as a
member of the House Resources Committee, and its subcommittee on
Forests and Forestry, Herseth has worked for ways such as this to promote
sound management and sensible use of our national forests.

Rep. Herseth said, "It just makes sense to allow families to use excess
wood to heat their homes this winter. Skyrocketing energy prices have
made many families across the state suffer through a cold winter. The
firewood that will be made available is debris that would have been left on
the ground as waste. Now, it can be used to heat homes. This project will
be particularly important for some tribal communities, as high energy costs
and cold temperatures rapidly exhaust LIHEAP funds."

Herseth added that in addition to providing needed heating assistance, the
project helps achieve important forest management objectives by removing

fuel from the forest. "I would like to commend Forest Supervisor Craig Bobzien for supporting this common sense solution," she said.

The Forest Service has authorized free use areas that are open to everyone by permit. Permits allow one person to cut a maximum of four cords of wood. A cord is a pile of wood 4'x 4' x 8' or 128 cubic feet of wood. Wood that is available will be primarily slash, slash piles, and unusable decked logs from logging and fuel reduction projects.

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